



SEAC MEETING

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

11:45 a.m.

Catholic Education Centre

MINUTES

- PRESENT:**
- Kay Gaffney, Child & Family Services of Timmins / Chair
 - Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
 - William (Bill) Russell, Poverty Action Coalition
 - Marc Leroux, Parent Representative
 - Fred Salvador, NCDSB Trustee - Timmins
 - Denis Lincez, NCDSB Trustee - Kapuskasing
 - Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Program Principal - Student Services
 - Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher - Student Services
 - Judy Piché, Administrative Assistant / Recorder
- EXCUSED:**
- Dolores Butterworth, Parent Representative
 - Nancy Cole, Parent Representative
 - Karen Rowe, Superintendent of Education
- GUESTS:**
- Johnna D'Alessandri, Special Education Resource Teacher, O'Gorman High
 - Catherine Hoven, Special Education Resource Teacher, St. Paul

1. Opening Prayer

Kay Gaffney, Chair, welcomed everyone and led the group in a prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: W. Russell
SECONDED BY: T. Stefanic Weltz

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: W. Russell
SECONDED BY: F. Salvador

THAT the minutes of the SEAC meeting held on January 17, 2007 be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

4. Guests: Johnna D'Alessandra and Catherine Hoven - Sagonaska Training

Special Education Resource Teachers, Johnna D'Alessandri and Catherine Hoven gave an overview of the Sagonaska Training provided to them and two other SERTs, Shana Bates and Tamara Jones. This extensive training will enable these teachers to share with their colleagues intervention strategies while working on word association and sentence writing. A video tape session with a group of students is the next phase to go through. In July, they will receive a 5-day training session in Milton and more information will be provided at that point. Kay Gaffney expressed her delight that these teachers are being trained and stated that the Board deserves kudos for providing it.

5. OPA Student Assessment Project

A copy of the OPA Student Assessment Project was shared with the members. Tricia Stefanic Weltz indicated that the plan has been approved and has received many compliments from OPA. Kay congratulated Tricia and Dan for their work on this project.

6. CODE Project Update

Tricia updated the members on the CODE Project. Ray Ginglo has been hired as technical support liaison to the three schools. He will provide support for white boards on a weekly basis. Implementation and modeling of school-based teams was the main purpose of the first DELTA Day on February 6th. Strategies to enhance student achievement were looked at. The next DELTA Day will be on February 28th. Every three weeks, DELTA school teachers will be released for specific needs. The interim report which highlighted challenges and next steps was submitted last week to the Ministry. Dan Loreto added that they are seeing huge successes and teachers deserve a pat in the back. Kay sent her congratulations to these teachers.

7. Draft Letter to Minister

Tricia and Dan drafted a letter addressed to the Minister of Education explaining the situation where we need more help in schools and that we are not prepared to deprive our students. The letter will be forwarded to Paul Toffanello and Colleen Landers.

8. Agency Reports

Bill Russell stated that there will be a meeting on St. Patrick's Day to try and establish a non-profit satellite food bank. Funding of \$5,000 is in place for the incorporation of the establishment.

The Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre is in the process of hiring a psychometrist for the Temiskaming region. Joel McCartney reported that this person will provide an assessment to developmentally disabled people.

Kay Gaffney mentioned that there is a lot of things on the table at Child and Family Services of Timmins and will bring more information at the next meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 21, 2007 at 11:45 a.m.** Please call Judy at (705) 268-7443 extension 3210 to confirm your attendance.

10. Other Business

Tricia stressed the importance of having more parents sit on SEAC and will call the school principals requesting names of interested parents. Kay added that parents are very much needed on SEAC and it is not because recruitment hasn't been tried.

11. Adjournment

MOVED BY: W. Russell

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:35 p.m.
CARRIED.